

**Fort Totten
Restoration Advisory Board
Adria Hotel and Conference Center**

April 7, 1997

Agenda

A. Opening Remarks

Peter Koutroubis
BRAC Environmental Coordinator

B. RAB Issues

Minutes
Charter

C. Environmental Issues

Fort Totten Site Investigation and Remediation Report
Unexploded Ordnance Archives Search Report Findings
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District
Other BRAC issues

D. Discussion with community members

E. Adjournment

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4/7/77 Ft Totten RAB Meeting

questions

1. NiCad Batteries powered Nike missiles
- suspect in landfill - portion retained by Army reserve
- portion
2. ^{Hg} Coast Guard own RAB
3. 4 remaining UBTs for lightness testing
4. UXO - magnetometers only to 4 feet - RAB may recommend depth restrictions

~~Dave~~ Brown by ACE FUDS
US Coast Guard RAB -

Hg lower quantitation limit ≤ 120 ppb

Question - old/ing previous search - wonder about potential for shells.

Nike missile talk ad museum - Larry says ok -
no NiCad batteries in landfill.

Est tour Sat/Sun 11am w/ Jack

Question - TCP ok in aquatic settings? Too conservative = ^{overzealous cleanup?}
too much aquatic eco damage.



~~Dave~~ 590 lbs.

Fort Totten
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, 7 April 1997

Meeting Location: The Adria Hotel and Conference Center

Meeting Time: 6:00 p.m.

U.S. Army was represented by the following:

Mr. Andrew Ruppert, Chief, Environmental Division, NYAC & Fort Hamilton

Ms. Rochelle Ross, Project Manager and Mr. Randy Fraser, Safety Officer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District

Ms. Carrie Ross from the 77th Regional Support Command (RSC)

Mr. Dave Brouwer Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Project Manager from USACE

RAB/BCT (BRAC Cleanup Team) Members in attendance:

Mr. Peter Koutroubis, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, NYAC & Fort Hamilton (Army Co-Chair)

Daisy Mather, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II

Dave Harrington, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

RAB members in attendance:

Lawrence Ordine (Community Co-Chair)

Tony Avella

Owen Bernstein

Jack Fein

Robert LoPinto

Donald Oral

Edmund Rowan

Frank Skala

Arnold Wagner

RAB members absent:

George Lawrence

Carol Marian

Lawrence Pavane

Stanley Speirs

Geraldine Spinella

Meeting Convened: 6:12 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

1. Opening Comments:

a. Mr. Ordine called the meeting to order. He announced the resignation of Ms. Shepard from the RAB. He went on to say there will be a presentation on Nike missiles this evening. Mr. Ordine said that he originally brought up the possibility of Nike missiles being stationed at Fort Totten. He was concerned with nickel cadmium batteries which

were a component of the missiles and the possibility of the batteries being disposed of in the landfill on Fort Totten.

b. Mr. Ordine announced that the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has set up its own RAB and has asked the community for participation. Mr. Koutroubis introduced Mr. Dave Brouwer, he is the FUDS Project Manager from the USACE. He will be working with the USCG to address the mercury contamination on USCG property.

c. Mr. Ordine asked about 8 underground storage tanks (UST) still on Fort Totten which are about 45 years old. He said they are not required by law to be replaced unless they fail the tightness test (they contain No. 2 heating oil). Mr. Koutroubis stated that 4 of the USTs have passed the tightness test, the other 4 USTs will be tightness tested in the next round of work. Mr. Koutroubis provided a brief description of the tightness test.

d. Mr. Skala expressed concern with the UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) statistical site sampling, in particular the fact that it detects debris only to a depth of 4 feet. This was addressed during the UXO presentation.

e. Mr. Ordine suggested RAB members read section 4 of the final EBS, it summarizes the report. He stated 135 acres of BRAC property is available for transfer, 99 acres have been environmentally cleared, the rest is still under investigation.

f. Mr. Koutroubis introduced Mr. Dave Harrington (NYSDEC) and Ms. Daisy Mather (USEPA) and briefly went over the function of the BCT and RAB. Mr. Koutroubis also introduced Mr. Randy Frazer and Ms. Rochelle Ross from USACE, St. Louis District. This agency conducted the UXO Archives Search Report, and they will give a presentation later on during the meeting.

g. Mr. Brouwer extended an invitation to all in attendance to participate in the USCG RAB. All are welcome to attend the next USCG meeting. It will take place sometime in the next 45 to 60 days and will be publicized in the local papers.

h. Mr. Koutroubis went over the agenda and passed out the revised charter. He asked RAB members to review it and provide any comments they may have to him.

i. A copy of the transcripts and/or cassette tapes of RAB meetings are sent to Mr. Ordine and are available at the Bay Terrace Library for anyone to review. Mr. Ordine and Mr. Skala felt that past minutes did not go into enough detail on what transpired at meetings. Mr. Koutroubis said the minutes are supposed to be a concise summary of the meeting, not verbatim.

2. Environmental Issues:

a. Fort Totten sampling results from the first round of sampling were received from USACE Baltimore District. Areas that had a potential for contamination were investigated. Soil and groundwater samples were taken throughout the facility. Mr. Koutroubis displayed slides of Fort Totten and described what was investigated at each site. He also indicated the three areas that require further investigation.

b. Mr. Ordine asked if there would be any sampling at the old sewage treatment plant. Mr. Koutroubis replied there are 3 ground water monitoring wells in the area. There was nothing of concern in the first round of sampling, but the BCT will look at the second round of sampling before coming to a determination.

c. Dr. Bernstein asked if water and soil was sampled for specific metals. Mr. Koutroubis said the sampling consisted of the full target compound list.

d. Mr. Skala asked why USACE is not working together to deal with the Fort Totten property as a whole. Mr. Koutroubis explained that BRAC addresses identifying and remediating excess property that is available for community reuse. USGC is responsible for their portion of Fort Totten, but since that property was a formerly used defense site (FUDS), USACE handling FUDS is working with the USCG.

e. Mr. Ordine asked about BRAC samples along the shoreline for mercury. Mr. Koutroubis explained there were 12 samples taken from the beach along the shore line. Two samples were 0.15ppm and 0.18ppm (0.15ppm is the standard for mercury). Mr. Ordine asked who will make the decisions on sampling for mercury out into the bay 400 feet. Mr. Koutroubis responded the issue of sampling offshore sediments, being addressed under the BRAC program, is to be determined by higher headquarters (US Army Forces Command). Mr. LoPinto suggested that it may be determined to be a FUDS issue. There was quite a bit of discussion on the subject. Mr. Harrington said if it is determined to be a BRAC issue, the BCT has already put together a plan to do the sampling work offshore. RAB members expressed concern with delay of offshore sediment sampling. Mr. Koutroubis replied the issue, hopefully, will be resolved before the next work plan is finalized so it can be included in the next round of sampling. Mr. LoPinto asked if additional shoreline sediment testing will be included in the next round of work, since these standards are so close to the State's clean up objectives. Mr. Koutroubis replied that since only 2 out of 12 samples were near the lowest level of effect (0.15ppm), the BCT decided not to pursue more shore line sampling. Mr. Harrington added if mercury contamination of offshore sediment requires cleanup, a coordinated effort with USCG would be preferable. Mr. Ordine stated the one cleanup effort makes sense, but he would like BRAC to continue sampling to find out how much contamination needs to be cleaned up.

f. Mr. Ordine asked what is meant by the mercury in the bay not being leachable. Mr. Harrington responded that leachable is the difference between hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste. He used an example to explain that a TCLP is done in order to determine if a contaminant is leachable. If it fails the TCLP it is hazardous waste. It is possible that the mercury in the bay has already leached out and the remaining mercury is in solid form and is not leachable. Mr. Harrington went on to explain that it could have become a solid with other compounds in the soil and therefore it is not hazardous waste. Mr. LoPinto commented that 120 ppb was the quantitation limit of the analytical procedure used, so anything 120 ppb and lower will not be reported. Mr. LoPinto asked since the quantitation limit is so close to the allowable limit, additional samples along the shoreline be taken. Mr. Harrington suggested the BCT request a lower quantitation limit in the next round of sampling.

g. Mr. LoPinto had comments on the Site Investigation and Remediation Report as to how data was presented. Mr. Koutroubis said the BCT had similar comments and all of the comments were sent to USACE Baltimore District to be incorporated into the final version of the report.

h. Mr. Bernstein asked Mr. Ordine if the Document Review Committee had met. Mr. Ordine responded that it has not met due to committee members having other

commitments. Discussion followed on how the committee should function as part of the RAB. Mr. LoPinto said when they received the document there was not enough time to meet, discuss the report, and get back to the RAB so the committee agreed to forward comments to Mr. Ordine and Mr. Koutroubis. Dr. Bernstein recommended that Mr. Ordine not chair the committee, since he chairs the RAB.

i. Mr. Koutroubis said Dr. Bernstein originally suggested the formation of a Public Relations Committee and he is interested in serving on that committee. Mr. Ordine asked Dr. Bernstein to chair the committee. Dr. Bernstein accepted and said he would report back to Mr. Ordine. Mr. LoPinto said the next time the Document Review Committee could meet would be late May.

3. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Archives Search Report Presentation:

Rochelle Ross gave the UXO Archives Search presentation. USACE, St. Louis District was tasked to do the UXO Archive Search Report on Fort Totten. The report focused on historical information regarding ordnance, explosives and chemical warfare activity on Fort Totten. The report was completed by a team consisting of a team leader, herself, a safety-officer Randy Fraser, a project assistant, historian, photographer and photo interpreters. They all have secret or top secret clearances. The team began by researching regional and national archives and records centers, military archives, libraries, museums and other information sources including Fort Hamilton and Fort Totten. They also went to the USACE, New York. All the historical information, maps and photos gathered were analyzed and incorporated into the report. They conducted a site visit to see all areas where they suspected there may be ordnance, based on past activities. At that time they interviewed Jack Fein. The summary of the interview is in the report. The draft report is complete, all comments have been received, and sampling results will be included in the Final Report. Ms. Ross explained UXO site sampling. Issues pertaining to site sampling were discussed. There was concern with the magnetometer sensitivity to a depth of 4 feet and future development of Fort Totten.

- Mr. LoPinto made a motion: The RAB recommends that any transfer of Fort Totten property specify that no excavation is to take place in areas of concern below 4 feet. Any excavation below 4 feet will require additional testing. A vote was taken, the RAB agreed on the recommendation, and the motion was carried.

Ms. Ross stated she had clearance to look at any classified materials related to Fort Totten. She gave a brief summary of all ordnance activities in the past 20th century. Mr. Wagner asked how specific the records are. Ms. Ross explained it depends on how well the records were kept. Some records are more detailed than others. The Archives search does not account for everything but the team looked through everything that was available. Ms. Ross said that in 1952 all excess ammunition was shipped to the National Guard. Mr. Ordine felt that the archival study was not very helpful in trying to ascertain whether or not there are still munitions to be concerned about.

4. Ordnance Briefing:

Mr. Fraser handed out information sheets to RAB members. He said that the types of ammunition used at any coastal defense site such as Fort Totten was for anti-aircraft guns. Mr. Fraser summarized storage practices for ammunition. He said on occasion a round may have been lost or buried but there is not a real potential for buried ordnance. Fort Totten was not a disposal site. He added that from the Civil War on, the Army kept good records on its ordnance.

5. Nike Missiles:

Mr. Fraser also spoke on the Nike missile system. He said they have not found any evidence that there were live Nike missiles at Fort Totten. Fort Totten was headquarters for the regional Army Air Defense Command (ARADCOM). The Nike Missile System was used for coastal defense, taking the place of the 90mm gun. He gave some background on Nike missile systems and the fact that Fort Totten is not large enough to accommodate a permanent or semi-mobile Nike missile site. It is a very extensive operation. He displayed a slide indicating every Nike missile site in the New York City Area. Nineteen firing batteries were established around New York City and the first ARADCOM was set up at Fort Totten. It was activated in 1959 and deactivated in 1963. Mr. Fraser gave out lists of all Nike sites in the area. The list contained details on the missiles at the sites and what units were attached to them.

5. Community Discussion:

- a. Mr. Koutroubis introduced the Representative from the 77th RSC, Ms. Carrie Ross.
- b. Mr. Fein invited everyone to go on a tour with him. Mr. Ordine highly recommended the tour.
- c. Mr. Kaiser asked if there had been a radiological survey. Mr. Koutroubis said the radiological survey is complete, it is in draft form and the BCT has asked RAB members for comments.
- d. Mr. Kaiser asked if TCLP was appropriate to use in an aquatic setting. There was some discussion on the procedure. Mr. Harrington explained TCLP and its use in determining hazardous waste in sediment samples.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.